

## CLAIMS

1. A method for providing communication in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the method comprising:

    sending a first messaging protocol message between a first switch and a first access point;

    responsive to said first messaging protocol message, receiving at least a second messaging protocol message from at least one said first access point and said first switch; and

    controlling at least one of said first switch, a second switch, said first access point, said second access point, and at least one of a plurality of access devices using at least one of said first messaging protocol message, said second messaging protocol message and a third messaging protocol message.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising generating said first messaging protocol message by said first switch.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising receiving said second messaging protocol message from said second switch in response to said generating of said first messaging protocol message.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is an access point status message communicated between said first switch and one of said first access point, said second access point and said second switch.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one access point configuration message communicated from at least one of said first switch and said second switch, to at least one of said first access point and said second access point.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one switch status message communicated between said first switch and said second switch.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one switch configuration message communicated between said first switch and said second switch.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one client status message communicated from at least one of said first access point and said second access point, to at least one of said first switch and said second switch.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least a device discovery message communicated between said first switch and said second switch, between said first switch and at least one of said first access point and said second access point, and between said first access point and at least one of said second access point and said at least one of said plurality of access devices.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one switch status message communicated between said first switch and said second switch.

11. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having at least one code section for providing an intelligent switch in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the at least one code section executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps comprising:

    sending a first messaging protocol message between a first switch and a first access point;

    responsive to said first messaging protocol message, receiving at least a second messaging protocol message from at least one of said first access point and said first switch; and

    controlling at least one of said first switch, a second switch, said first access point, said second access point, and at least one of a plurality of access devices using at least one of said first messaging protocol message, said second messaging protocol message and a third messaging protocol message.

12. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for generating said first messaging protocol message by said first switch.

13. The machine-readable storage according to claim 12, further comprising code for receiving said second messaging protocol message from said second switch in response to said generating of said first messaging protocol message.

14. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is an access point status message communicated between said first switch and one of said first access point, said second access point and said second switch.

15. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one access point configuration message communicated from at least one of said first switch and said second switch, to at least one of said first access point and said second access point.

16. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one switch status message communicated between said first switch and said second switch.

17. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one switch configuration message communicated between said first switch and said second switch.

18. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one client status message communicated from at least one of said first access point and said second access point, to at least one of said first switch and said second switch.

19. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least a device discovery message communicated between said first switch and said second switch, between

said first switch and at least one of said first access point and said second access point, and between said first access point and at least one of said second access point and said at least one of said plurality of access devices.

20. The machine-readable storage according to claim 19, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one switch status message communicated between said first switch and said second switch.

21. A system for providing communication in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the system comprising:

a transmitter adapted to send a first messaging protocol message between a first switch and a first access point;

a receiver adapted to receive a second messaging protocol message from at least one of said first access point and said first switch in response to said first messaging protocol message; and

a controller adapted to control at least one of said first switch, a second switch, said first access point, said second access point, and at least one of a plurality of access devices using at least one of said first messaging protocol message, said second messaging protocol message and a third messaging protocol message.

22. The system according to claim 21, further comprising at least one generator adapted to generate said first messaging protocol message by said first switch.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein said receiver is adapted to receive said second messaging protocol message from a second switch in response to said generating of said first messaging protocol message.

24. The system according to claim 23, further comprising at least one processor adapted to control said transmitter, said receiver, said controller and said at least one generator.

25. The system according to claim 21, wherein said controller comprises:  
a QoS controller coupled to said at least one processor;  
a load balancing controller coupled to said at least one processor;  
a session controller coupled to said at least one processor; and  
a network management controller coupled to said at least one processor.

26. The system according to claim 21, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is an access point status message communicated between said first switch and one of said first access point, said second access point and said second switch.

27. The system according to claim 21, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one access point configuration message communicated from at least one of said first switch and said second switch, to at least one of said first access point and said second access point.

28. The system according to claim 21, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one switch status message communicated between said first switch and said second switch.

29. The system according to claim 21, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one switch configuration message communicated between said first switch and said second switch.

30. The system according to claim 21, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one client status message communicated from at least one of said first access point and said second access point, to at least one of said first switch and said second switch.

31. The system according to claim 21, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least a device discovery message communicated between said first switch and said second switch, between said first switch and at least one of said first access point and said second access point, and between said first access point and at least one of said second access point and said at least one of said plurality of access devices.

32. The system according to claim 31, wherein at least one of said first and said third messaging protocol messages is at least one switch status message communicated between said first switch and said second switch.